Tripura University, Dibrugarh University, Assam Agriculture Research University on the high speed network ERNET has also set up a major Presence of Point at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, which is being connected on a 2 Mbps leased line on the world wide terrestrial back bone from Calcutta. Community information Centre are proposed to be set up at all the 486 blocks in the North East Region including Sikkim. A pilot project of setting up a Community Information Centre at 30 blocks in the North East Region including Sikkim has been initiated. The funds are provided through Special Employment Generation Training Scheme (SEGDTS) to set up computer training institutes for training to SC/ ST in the North East.

Improvement of ITI unit, Palghat

3849. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ITI Employees Association Palghat submitted a memorandum regarding the improvement of the ITI unit, Palghat; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following steps have been taken to help ITI:

(i) 25% in switching and a maximum 30% in transmission equipment (if the equipment is not manufactured by HTL) of total requirement of DOT is ordered on ITI as reserve quota.

(ii) Release of reservation quota orders much ahead of tenders.

(iii) 75% advance against purchase orders of reservation quota are given to ITI. No interest is charged during original delivery period.

(iv) Also ITI is allowed to participate in the open tenders to secure additional orders.

(v) Exemption from payment of earnest money deposit and performance guarantee in tenders.